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STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Following consultations with the members of the Security Council, the President of the Council made the following statement, on behalf of the Council, at its 3330th meeting, held on 24 January 1994, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in Afghanistan":

"The Security Council deplores the continuing large-scale fighting in Afghanistan, which is creating mass suffering among the civilian population and is jeopardizing efforts to provide humanitarian assistance to those in need.

"The Council notes with concern that the ongoing conflict in Afghanistan disrupts efforts to establish a political process that would lead to a broad-based government, is producing another wave of refugees and displaced persons and detracts from efforts to foster regional stability.

"The Council notes General Assembly resolution 48/208 requesting the Secretary-General to dispatch as soon as possible a United Nations special mission to Afghanistan to canvass a broad spectrum of Afghanistan's leaders to solicit their views on how the United Nations can best assist Afghanistan in facilitating national rapprochement and reconstruction. The Council welcomes the reaffirmation of support for such a mission issued on 12 January 1994 by the Secretary-General and his intention to dispatch this mission.

"The Council calls for an immediate cessation of hostilities in Afghanistan and the beginning of a process to create a broad-based government acceptable to the Afghan people.

"The Council appreciates the humanitarian assistance that the international community and the countries neighbouring Afghanistan have been providing to the most recent wave of refugees as well as displaced persons within Afghanistan and encourages them to increase their assistance even further.

"The Council commends the efforts of the Secretary-General, his Personal Representative and the United Nations agencies active in Afghanistan to alleviate the suffering caused by the conflict in that country. The Council attaches great importance to the continuation of their work.

"The Council also commends the efforts of the General Assembly of the United Nations, the Organization of the Islamic Conference and a number of concerned States to promote peace in Afghanistan through a political dialogue among the Afghan parties."